



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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R.I. JUSTICE COMMISSION RECEIVES \$200,000 FROM U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Rhode Island Justice Commission (RIJC) will be the recipient of three grant awards totaling \$203,015, U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced today. The grants will be devoted to reducing gun violence and juvenile delinquency, and improving statistical data on crime.

“With this award, the Rhode Island Justice Commission will be able to assess and improve existing programs which have been successful in reducing the commission of serious crimes by juveniles and adults alike,” Senator Chafee said. “I am pleased to see support for programs which utilize the collection and analysis of statistics on crime. This will help give us a better understanding of the nature of crimes being committed and how to combat them.”

Of the award, \$88,000 will support state and local delinquency prevention and intervention efforts, as well as improvements to the juvenile justice system. This includes programs which educate, treat, and prevent substance abuse, as well as those which prevent serious juvenile participation in violent crimes, gang activities, and other delinquent acts. Funds will also be used for improvements to the operations, policies, and procedures put in place by the juvenile justice system, and will include graduated sanctions, treatment programs, and aftercare services.

Additionally, RIJC will receive \$65,015 under the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) program. The funds will continue the PSN Task Force’s multi-prong strategy to reduce gun violence. Primarily based in Providence, the strategy includes tracking geographical hotspots for gun crimes, assessing and redeveloping effective officer deployment strategies, and enhancing enforcement and investigative efforts in those areas. Under PSN, programs have already been instituted which develop and encourage strong relationships with youth in high crime communities, supporting more positive attitudes among neighborhood residents, therein fostering a stronger sense of neighborhood

identity. This encourages active participation by residents in preventing crime and increasing the probability of criminal apprehension.

Finally, RIJC will utilize the remaining \$50,000 for the State Justice Statistics (SJS) Program for Statistical Analysis Centers (SAC). The SJS program provides support for to SAC to collect, analyze, and report statistics on crime and justice. The RI SAC will continue the following ongoing efforts to:

- Obtain statewide data pertaining to the process of and/or pursuit of an arrest;
- Continue data collection and analysis of a sex offender registry study;
- Conduct a homicide study in the city of Providence;
- Collect and analyze law enforcement agency data on traffic stops; and
- Update and enhance the SAC website to include additional data resources and reports

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